

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 14688 112306Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PA-01 INR-05 PM-03

NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 /050 W

-----061321 130040Z /15 S

R 111743Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1035

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T BONN 14688

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, SO, EG, GW, US

SUBJECT: SOMALIA: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

REFS: A) STATE 194165; B) MOGADISCIO 1693;

C) STATE 195693

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON FOREIGN OFFICE AUGUST 10 TO PRESENT  
READOUT ON CURRENT STATUS OF US-SOMALI RELATIONS IN LIGHT  
OF REFTEL A. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACT  
BRIEFED US ON REPORT FROM FRG AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO  
ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR REGARDING  
AUGUST 5-8 VISIT OF EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER GAMASI.

2. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THE VISIT WAS INTENDED  
TO: GIVE SIAD A BOOST DOMESTICALLY, DEMONSTRATE  
EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN THE HORN, AND ENCOURAGE THE US TO  
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SEND A MILITARY MISSION TO SOMALIA. A CENTRAL THEME  
CONCERNED THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL EGYPTIAN MILITARY  
AID TO SOMALIA.

3. THE SOMALIS PRESENTED GENERAL GAMASI WITH A SHOPPING  
LIST OF SOPHISTICATED DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, INCLUDING  
GROUND-TO-AIR ROCKETS AND FIGHTER PLANES. (ACCORDING

TO THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, CAIRO'S SUPPORT IS LIMITED TO DEFENSIVE WEAPONS.) GAMASI SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON THIS SCORE SINCE EGYPT HAD ONLY LIMITED QUANTITIES OF SUCH WEAPONS. HE TOLD THE SOMALIS THAT, PENDING A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THEIR SHOPPING LIST AND SAUDI ARABIAN WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE, HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT CAIRO ARRANGE FOR THE DELIVERY OF THESE WEAPONS TO SOMALIA. GAMASI SAID THE WEAPONS COULD GO DIRECTLY TO SOMALIA OR VIA EGYPT. GAMASI SAID THE SAUDIS HAD ALREADY AGREED WITH THE EGYPTIANS TO DISCUSS SOMALI WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT. HE NOTED THAT THE SAUDIS HAD MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PROCEED WITH FINANCING WITHOUT US CONCURRENCE.

4. GAMASI AGREED TO THE CONTINUED SUPPLY OF LIGHT WEAPONS TO SOMALIA; THESE WEAPONS ARE REPORTEDLY SUPPLIED BY A GROUP OF ARAB STATES.

5. WE GATHER FROM THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S REPORT THAT GAMASI, WHILE DEMONSTRATING GOOD WILL AND EGYPTIAN READINESS TO ASSIST THE SOMALIS IN THEIR REQUEST FOR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, MADE NO PROMISES AND ADDED SEVERAL CAVEATS.

6. ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR, SIAD, IN A  
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CONVERSATION WITH GAMASI WAS VERY BITTER ABOUT THE US. HE SAID THAT AT CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL RISK HE HAD MET US REQUESTS FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCES REGARDING BORDERS AND HAD NOW BEEN LEFT IN THE LURCH. AT THE OAU IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THERE WERE WIDE-SPREAD DOUBTS ABOUT US LEADERSHIP. THE RELUCTANCE OF AFRICAN STATES TO OPPOSE SOVIET INCURSIONS IN AFRICA WAS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PROSPECT OF US BACKING, SIAD SAID.

7. RE REF B, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE THREE WSLF/ABO LIBERATION FRONT REPRESENTATIVES ARE PRESENTLY IN BONN BUT THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS DECLINED TO RECEIVE THEM.

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## Message Attributes

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